

Celebrating The Birthday Of The Prophet (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him)

Praise be to Allaah, Lord of the Worlds, and peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad and upon his family and his companions.

“Eid” or festival is something that returns and is repeated regularly such as on a weekly, monthly or yearly basis.

Eids or festivals serve as symbols unique to nations.

Festivals of Muslims are only those celebrations which are permitted by Islamic Sharee’ah, this is because when the Prophet of Allaah (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) came to Madeenah he abolished the festivals of Jahiliyyah and replaced them with Islamic festivals.

Anas (may Allaah be pleased with him) reported that: ***“The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) came to Madeenah and the people had two days when they would play and have fun. He said, ‘What are these two days?’ They said, ‘We used to play and have fun on these days during the Jaahiliyyah. The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, ‘Allaah has given you something better than them, the day of Adhaa and the day of Fitr.’”*** (Sunan Abi Dawood, 1134)

Hence the celebrations of Jahiliyyah were stopped and not repeated anymore.

For any other celebrations or festivals to be permitted for Muslims, it is essential that there is a proof for that from the book of Allaah or Sunnah of his Prophet (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon

him). This is because the religion of Islam was completed on the Prophet of Allaah (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) when Allaah the Glorified and the most High said:

This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islâm as your religion. (Al-Ma'idah 3)

Allaah commanded us to take his religion from his Prophet (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) and obey him:

And whatsoever the Messenger (Muhammad peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) gives you, take it; and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it). And fear Allâah; verily Allâh is Severe in punishment. (Al-Hashr.7)

He who obeys the Messenger (Muhammad, peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him), has indeed obeyed Allâh. (An-Nisaa.80)

But no, by your Lord, they can have no Faith, until they make you (O Muhammad, peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions, and accept (them) with full submission..(An-Nisaa.65)

So, whoever wants to obey Allaah should obey his Messenger (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him), and whoever wants to obey Allaah's Messenger should know that the Messenger of Allâh (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him), has forbidden adding and innovating new things in the religion when he said:

“The most truthful of speech is the Book of Allaah and the best of guidance is the guidance of Muhammad, and the most evil of things are those which are newly-invented.” And he (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: *“Whoever innovates anything in this matter of ours (i.e., Islam), that is not part of it will have it rejected.”* (Narrated by al-Bukhaari, no. 2697; Muslim, no. 1718).

According to a version narrated by Muslim, *“Whoever does anything that is not in accordance with this matter of ours (i.e., Islam), will have it rejected.”*

Therefore unless there is proof from the Quraan and Sunnah no celebration is accepted, e.g. if one celebrates Sunday instead of Friday, this would not be accepted, or if one celebrates the Eid at the beginning of Ramadan instead of the beginning of Shawwal then this will indeed be rejected.

Days which are permitted to be venerated by the Sharee’ah in addition to the two Eids are the day of ‘Aashooraa’ and the day of ‘Arafaah, and this is because there is proof for this in both the statement and action of the Prophet of Allaah (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him).

Similarly gatherings that are prescribed in Sharee’ah in addition to the gathering of the two Eids are the gatherings of five daily prayers, Jumu’ah and Hajj, again because of the evidence in the text of Quraan and Sunnah.

No festivals or celebration can be added even if this is the celebration for the birth of the Messenger of Allaâh (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him), because neither himself nor any of his companions (who were indeed more pious and more knowledgeable than all the Muslims to come till the day of judgement) celebrated this birthday.

But what has no proof from the Quraan and Sunnah and what is well known to be an innovation initiated by the Faatimids Shi’ah three centuries after the death of the Prophet of Allaah (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him), in order to corrupt the religion of the Muslims, has become a widespread religious festival.

Muslims who do this have a variety of attitude towards this celebration, the minimum of which is ignorance in religion and maximum, a major shirk.

If this is due to ignorance then one should know that Allaah does not permit ignorance for His believing slaves as He says:

So be not you one of those who are ignorant.. (Al-An'aam 35)

And that ignorance is a sign of hypocrisy, as Allaah says:

The Bedouins are the worst in disbelief and hypocrisy, and more likely to be in ignorance of the limits (Allâah's Commandments and His Legal Laws etc.) which Allâh has revealed to His Messenger. And Allâh is All-Knower, All-Wise.. (At-Tawbah.97)

Those who indulge in this celebration, because the majority is doing this should know that Allaah does not approve following the majority for something which does not have proof in Islaam:

And if you obey most of those on the earth, they will mislead you far away from Allâh's Path. They follow nothing but conjectures, and they do nothing but lie.. (Al-An'aam 116)

Those who say that the celebration is a way of honouring the Prophet of Allaah (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) then they should know that;

Firstly, this is the kind of honour that Jews and Christians gave to the Prophets who came to them. That is why Allaah warned them:

O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians)! Do not exaggerate in your religion, nor say of Allâh aught but the truth. The Messiah `Iesa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary), was (no more than) a Messenger of Allâh and His Word, (Be! and he was) which He

bestowed on Maryam (Mary) and a spirit (Rûh) created by Him... (An-Nisaa.171)

And the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) said: *"Beware of exaggeration in the Religion, because previous nations were destroyed because of their exaggeration in the Religion."* (An Nisa'i)

And the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) said: *"Don't exaggerate in praising me like they did to Isa, son of Maryam because indeed I am His (Allaah's) slave so say 'slave of Allaah and His Messenger'."*

And Allaah says:

There is none in the heavens and the earth but comes unto the Most Gracious (Allâh) as a slave..(Maryam. 93).

And secondly, if this way of honoring was acceptable then surely the companions the Prophet (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) were more keen to honor him but still were never reported to had celebrated the Birthday of the Prophet (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him).

The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) was asked about his fasting on Mondays so he said: *this is the day when I was bourn and (the day when) revelation came to me."* Narrated Muslim 1162.

This means that his (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) birthday can not be on any other day except Monday. And if one celebrates this on a Monday then he should know that every week has a Monday so which Monday he is going to select.

Those who are neither ignorant nor following the majority, but they celebrate the birthday of the

Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) with clearly deviated concepts such as, he was created from light or he answers their calls, then these are the ones who fall into either disbelief by rejecting the Ayaat of Quraan or shirk by giving the attributes to the Prophet of Allaah (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) which are only for Allaah, the Most High.

Anyone who says that Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) was created from light goes against the word of Allaah, who says:

Say (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم): I am only a man like you... (Al-Kahf.110)

And Allaah says:

(Remember) when your Lord said to the angels: Truly I am going to create man from clay.. (Saad.71)

Anyone who says that Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) has not died but is alive in a manner that he answer our call and visits our gatherings then he goes against the word of Allaah, who says:

Verily you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) will die, and verily they (too) will die.. (Az Zumar.30)

And Allaah says:

And call not, besides Allaah, another god. There is no god but he. Everything (that exists) will perish except his face. To him belongs the command, and to him will you (all) be brought back.. (Al-Qasas.88)

And all the Muslim Ummah is in agreement that Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) has died and is buried in a grave in a town called Madinat-ul-Munawwarrah in the Arabian Peninsula.

And Allaah says:

Nor are (alike) the living and the dead. Verily, Allâh makes whom He will to hear, but you cannot make hear those who are in (their) graves.. (Faatir:22)

No doubt the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) said: "*None of you sends Salaam on me except that Allaah returns my soul till I answer his salaam.*" Narrated Abu Dawood and Ahmad

However this is not to be exaggerated any more than reciting the Salaat (Durood) and Salaam on the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) in a manner he taught his companions.

Of course the only One who hears and answers the call of the distressed is Allaah, the Ever-living and the Most High. To associate any created being to share this attribute of Allaah is nothing but major shirk as Allaah says:

Say (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم): Call upon those besides Him whom you pretend (that they answer your call). They have neither the power to remove the adversity from you nor even to shift it from you to another person...

Those whom they call upon, desire (for themselves) means of access to their Lord (Allâh), as to which of them should be the nearest; and they hope for His Mercy and fear His Torment. Verily, the Torment of your Lord is (something) to be afraid of!. (Al-Israa 56-57)

And Allaah says:

Surely the religion (i.e. the worship, the obedience and the calling for help and asking) is for Allaâh only. And those who take Auliyâ' (protectors, helpers, lords, gods etc.) besides Him (saying): We worship them only that they may bring us near to Allâh. Verily Allâh will judge between them concerning that wherein they differ. Truly, Allaâh guides not him who is a liar, and a disbeliever.. (Az-Zumar. 3).

And whoever will die in shirk will never be forgiven. As Allaah says:

Verily! Allâah forgives not (the sin of) setting up partners in worship with Him, but He forgives whom He pleases (from) sins other than that, and whoever sets up partners in worship with Allaâh, has indeed strayed far away.. (An Nisa: 116)

Any Muslim who wants to honour Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) should strive to obey his Sunnah as Allaah says:

Say: if you love Allaah, then follow me. Allaah will love you and forgive you of your sins and Allaah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful... (Aal Imraan: 31)

And a believer should stay away from innovations which are the opposite of the Sunnah of Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him). Anyone who would learn the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) and would follow it will be the one who honours Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him), as Allaah says:

So those who believe in him (Muhammad, peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him), honour him, help him, and follow the light (the

Quraan and Sunnah) which has been sent down with him, it is they who will be successful... (Al Aaraf:157)

Therefore it is necessary for every Muslim to learn and follow the light of the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) and stay far away from all innovated actions in religion including this Eid Meelad an Nabi.

May Allaah make us sincere to His religion, obedient to the Sunnah of His Messenger (peace and blessing of Allaah be upon him) and save us from the invented affairs in the Religion. May Allaah make us successful in this life and in the Hereafter.

Peace and Blessings of Allaah be upon the final Messenger, his family and his companions.